



WHAT'S MY STORY?

I SPENT NEARLY A CENTURY DISTILLING WHISKEY – LEGALLY AND ILLEGALLY.

This 85-gallon still operated between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries and reportedly produced the best whiskey in the business. First Dr. Allen Messer, then Bill Yates made whiskey with it on Eastern Kentucky's Stinking Creek and Roaring Fork, respectively. Each had a government permit and paid the required taxes on distilled spirits. During Prohibition, Yates kept producing whiskey. Eventually, Uncle Tip Carnes bought the still from Yates and named it "Old Kaiser." To keep "revenueurs" from finding it, he hid it in tree tops and hay lofts around Roaring Fork. Thieves stole it, but did not hide it as well as Carnes did. Federal agents found and confiscated "Old Kaiser" in 1942.

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